

HUGHES'S FRIENDS ELATED.

Governor Himself Will Not Discuss Taft Letter.

Massive Viewed at Albany as an Effort, Made Too Late, to Save Parsons and Federal Crowd—Field of Emotional Fighting Narrow.

Gov. Hughes declined to make any comment on the letter of Secretary Taft to the State Board of Regents, calling the latter not to make a contest for election in this State against Hughes. In declining, he made it clear that he would not later make any comment, says an Albany special to the New York Post. His fixed policy is to confine himself to questions affecting his own position and principles. Therefore he will not make a speech on the Republican club on January 21, and until then, he intends to keep silent. Neither will he give out for publication any letters or messages of congratulation that may reach him. To "keep the pot boiling" in this way is not his notion of the Albany road to success.

To the Albany politicians, however, Secretary Taft's letter means one thing, namely, that it is an eleventh-hour effort directly inspired from the White House to save Mr. Parsons, and the "Federal crowd" generally from the consequences of their political indiscretions. It means the "Federal crowd" with its Hughes-baiting, its Black, Odell, and Aldridge could beat Barnes, Woodruff, and Parsons, and Hughes has been made to save them from the fight.

But Albany does not believe that the fight can be avoided. "It came too late," was the general comment heard here this morning. "Friends of Gov. Hughes—men like Parsons, Barnes and Leimert—may be pardoned for declining to enter the future of their candidate to men who have persistently opposed him as long as opposition was in the slightest degree likely to be crowned with success. Having done all in their power to insure Gov. Hughes in the eyes of the country and the people, they are now endeavoring to escape the consequences of their actions," said Senator Sixe—and this is the logical foundation of the Hughes followers' course.

Behind these friends of the Governor certainly are the men Mr. Taft's statement is an admission of defeat. They say, with apparent justice, that statement came from Mr. Taft at a time when the issue was in doubt, but that only when the Hughes sentiment had gathered such strength as to make any further opposition fatal to the Taft leaders, was any word written.

Now it was clear to every one that New York was for Hughes, in spite of all federal influence and the activity of federal officeholders; was there an magnanimity to be had from Mr. Taft, said a Hughes man this morning.

It is true that the field of factional fighting will be small, and the narrow New York (Franklin) and few up-State congressional districts will probably allow; but here the Odell forces will follow the friends of Hughes, and the Hughes issue will be theirs. Albany politicians believe that Mr. Parsons cannot fail to lose control of New York, if Hughes has proven himself a good campaigner, and as such cannot expect the Hughes men to confide their interests into his hands. All over the State the Hughes State League may be expected to keep up a vigorous stirring the selection of four Hughes men as delegates to a national convention, and it is hardly probable that the Hughes men will be subject to any deserved criticism.

In the next State convention, moreover, there will be a bitter fight over the delegates at large to Chicago, "the four." The federal machine will endeavor to name men who will be really loyal to Taft and not to Hughes, and as such, will be a considerable notice. Woodruff, Root, Parsons, and Greiner—all Hughes-Taft men will probably be the Hughes choice. Ex-Gov. Black, President J. C. Schurman of Cornell, Edward T. Brackett, and Seth Low are suggestions for the Hughes-Odell forces.

Senator John Raines, said this morning, "The danger of a factional fight throughout the State has been averted, or at least postponed, and will not be fought out on the Hughes issue. I suppose there will be fight in New York over the presidential delegates. In sum, the letter makes the Hughes fight one of the hands of the party and thus it is in the hands of the party. I think, moreover, that Mr. Odell will have gathered no credit and prestige out of having lost this course."

El. A. Merritt, a majority leader of the Assembly, said, "I don't mean to suggest that the Hughes league should be abandoned, but I think that New York is insured to Hughes, it ought to devote its main work to activity in other States."

What Albany really thinks of the Taft letter is that it came too late to improve much the situation of his friends, but, as a surrender of the Hughes-Taft fight to a great position for the Governor in other States, notably New England.

Herbert Parsons, chairman of the Republican county committee, arrived in New York and at once announced that he would call a special meeting of the committee, probably on Wednesday, to discuss resolutions endorsing Gov. Hughes for the presidency, and recommending that New York's delegation to the national convention be instructed to elect him.

"There is no doubt now," said Mr. Parsons, "that the New York delegation will be solid for Governor Hughes. The State-at-large and the district delegates will be men who will support Hughes faithfully and do their best to bring about his nomination by the Chicago convention."

The county chairman did not care to talk about the letter sent to him by Mr. Taft, his friends in this State from their reluctance to the secretary of war. It was quite evident, though, that Mr. Parsons was greatly relieved. The Hughes endorsement resolution would probably have gone through at the next meeting of the county committee even if Mr. Parsons had kept up his opposition. It might have meant the end of his political career. Now he can climb on to the Hughes band-wagon with more or less grace, and he and his followers can make up for past apathy by yelling more loudly than the original Hughes men.

Suggestion was made in some Washington circles that the New York State convention might instruct for Hughes and then declare for Taft as second choice. It can be stated with authority that no such course is contemplated. The resolutions will instruct for Hughes and no other name will be mentioned.